VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL PRE-PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

DESCRIPTION
The Virginia Agricultural Council (VAC) funds support agricultural research, education and services. Research includes uses for agricultural products, to develop new markets for such products, and to promote more efficient and economical methods of agricultural production. An expanded program of agricultural research is essential to these objectives and will be beneficial to the state. To submit a pre-proposal or for more information see the attached instructions. Previously funded projects can be viewed in the VAC's annual report at: http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/boards-virginia-agricultural-council.shtml

Publish Date: 09/28/2017
Closing Date-Time: 11/15/2017- 10:00 AM
Commodity: 95670- Research Services (Other than Business)
Commodity: 96103: Agricultural Services (Including Production, Cotton Ginning, Harvesting Marketing, Seed Extraction, Processing ect.)

Contact Information:
Buyer name: Larry Harris
Phone: 804-292-5648
Fax: 804-371-8372
E-mail- larry.harris@vdacs.virginia.gov

CONCEPT
A pre-proposal system has been approved by the Virginia Agricultural Council (VAC) that is designed to streamline proposal preparation and review. Pre-proposals will be screened by VAC council members and selected investigators will be invited to submit full proposals for further consideration. Although an invitation to submit a full proposal does not guarantee funding, the prescreening process will increase the chances of approval for the invited projects and save investigators from preparing proposals for projects that are considered unsuitable for support.

The VAC Council will divide pre-proposals into commodity groups and members from the Council have been appointed, based on their expertise, to review and evaluate pre-proposals within each group.

FORMAT
Pre-proposals must be submitted electronically using the "VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL PRE-PROPOSAL FORM." Text must be single-spaced, 12 point and should address the following:
- Objectives: What are the scientific objectives of the proposed project?
- Approach: What methods will be used to accomplish the objectives?
- Justification: What impact will the proposed research have on Virginia agriculture? Include cost benefit.

In the space below the text box include the investigator name(s), project duration one-year and total budget request. Also, check the appropriate block for which commodity group your project should be classified.

DEADLINES
> Pre-proposals must be electronically submitted to larry.harris@vdacs.virginia.gov by *November 15, 2017, no later than 10:00 a.m.*
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> Applicants will be notified electronically as to the status of their pre-proposals by *December 31*, 2017 and selected investigators will be invited to submit full proposals by the February 28, 2018 deadline.

HINTS
Avoid jargon – Be mindful that the shorthand technological terms you use every day may be unfamiliar to the reviewers.
Be realistic – Do not overstate the importance of the project.
Have a layman read it – Make sure someone outside of your discipline can understand what you want to do and how you plan to do it.
Only ONE pre-proposal per PI
Should not exceed three pages
Budget should not include salaried positions. Wage or hourly expenses may be included.